

First named inventor: Kwasny
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In the claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving information to be optically written on an optically writable label side of an optical disc; and,
formatting the information so that the information is optically written on a least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc to minimize optical writing time of the information to the optically writable label side of the optical disc, comprising:
formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the least number of tracks;
formatting the information in a second manner such that successive lines of the information start within a same track;
displaying to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and formatted in the second manner; and,
enabling the end user to select which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising optically writing the information as has been formatted onto the optically writable label side of the optical disc.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information to be optically written on the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises extracting the information from data previously optically written on an optically writable data side of the optical disc opposite to the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

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4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein extracting the information from the data previously optically written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc comprises determining at least one of an album name and an artist name of music data previously written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein extracting the information from the data previously optically written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc further comprises determining one or more song names of music data previously written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc.
6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein extracting the information from the data previously optically written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc comprises determining at least one of a title and a date of the data previously written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc.
7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein extracting the information from the data previously optically written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc further comprises determining one or more track titles the data previously written on the optically writable data side of the optical disc.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information to be optically written on the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises receiving at least one of upper optically writable label side information and lower optically writable label side information.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein receiving the information to be optically written on the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises receiving at least one of

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upper optically writable label side title information and lower optically writable label side content information.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises formatting the information so that the information fits into at least one of a predetermined upper area of the optically writable label side and a predetermined lower area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises formatting the information so that the information fits into at least one of a predetermined upper title area of the optically writable label side and a predetermined lower track area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises formatting the information so that the information fits into at least one of a predetermined upper title area of the optically writable label side and a predetermined lower date area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises formatting the information so that the information fits into at least one of a predetermined upper album name area of the optically writable label side and a predetermined lower artist name area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

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14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises formatting the information so that the information fits into at least one of a predetermined upper album or artist name area of the optically writable label side and a predetermined lower song name area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises curving the information to fit within the least number of tracks.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein formatting the information so that the information is optically written on the least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc comprises starting first characters of successive lines of the information within a same track.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initially optically writing user-selected data to an optically writable data side of the optical disc opposite to the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon to perform a method comprising:

providing data to a mass storage device to optically write the data to an optically writable data region of an optical disc inserted into the mass storage device;

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extracting information to be optically written on an optically writable label region of the optical disc from the data;

formatting the information so that the information fits within a predetermined curved area on the optically writable label region of the optical disc and so that the information is optically written on a least number of tracks of the optically writable label region of the optical disc, comprising:

formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

formatting the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

providing the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receiving data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted; and,

providing the information as formatted to the mass storage device to optically write the information to the predetermined curved area on the optically writable label region of the optical disc.

20. (original) The medium of claim 19, wherein formatting the information so that the information fits within the predetermined curved area on the optically writable label region of the optical disc comprises curving the information to fit within the predetermined curved area.

21. (original) The medium of claim 19, wherein formatting the information so that the information fits within the predetermined curved area on the optically writable label region of the

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optical disc comprises starting first characters of successive lines of the information within a same track of the predetermined curved area.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a mass storage device capable of optically writing information to an optically writable label side of an optical disc; and,

a computer program to format the information so that the information is optically written to a least number of tracks on the optically writable label side of the optical disc in a shortest length of time, the computer program to:

format the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

format the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

provide the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receive data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.

24. (original) The system of claim 23, further comprising a host computing device communicatively coupled to the mass storage device and having a computer-readable medium on which the computer program is stored and from which the computer program is executed.

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25. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further comprising [[a]] the display device so that an end user is able to approve formatting of the information prior to optical writing of the information to the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

26. (original) The system of claim 25, wherein the mass storage device includes a computer-readable medium on which the computer program is stored and from which the computer program is executed, the display device embedded within the mass storage device.

27. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a mass storage device capable of optically writing information to an optically writable label side of an optical disc; and,

means for formatting the information so that the information is optically written to a least number of tracks on the optically writable label side of the optical disc in a shortest length of time, by:

formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

formatting the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

providing the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receiving data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.

28. (currently amended) A mass storage device comprising:

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an optical marking mechanism to at least optically write information to an optically writable label region of an optical disc; and,

a controller to format the information so that the information is optically written on a least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc, by:

formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

formatting the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

providing the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receiving data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.

29. (original) The mass storage device of claim 28, wherein the controller is to further format the information so that the information is optically written to the optically writable label side of the optical disc in a shortest length of time.

30. (original) The mass storage device of claim 28, wherein the controller is to further format the information so that the information fits within a predetermined area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

31. (currently amended) A mass storage device comprising:
means for optically writing information to an optically writable label region of an optical disc; and,

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means for formatting the information so that the information is optically written on a least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc, by:

formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

formatting the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

providing the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receiving data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.

32. (original) The mass storage device of claim 31, wherein the means for formatting the information is further for formatting the information so that the information is optically written to the optically writable label side of the optical disc in a shortest length of time.

33. (original) The mass storage device of claim 31, wherein the means for formatting the information is further for formatting the information so that the information fits within a predetermined area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc.

34. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a mass storage device comprising:
providing an optical marking mechanism that is able to at least optically write information on an optically writable label side of an optical disc;
providing a plurality of motor mechanisms that are able to rotate the optical disc and to move the optical marking mechanism radially relative to the optical disc; and,

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providing a controller that is able to format the information so that the information is optically written on a least number of tracks of the optically writable label side of the optical disc and the information fits within a predetermined area of the optically writable label side of the optical disc, so as to minimize optical writing time of the information to the optically writable label side of the optical disc, by:

formatting the information in a first manner such that the information is curved to fit within the predetermined curved area;

formatting the information in a second manner such that first characters of successive lines of the information start within a same track of the predetermined curved area;

providing the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner to a display device to display to an end user the information formatted in the first manner and in the second manner; and,

receiving data from an input device corresponding to a selection by the end user of which of the first manner and the second manner in which to have the information formatted.